



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## The Fourth Beast Persecutes the Saints

MAY 22-24, 2024

Pastor David Andersen / 804-683-2285 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

**Daniel 7:19-25** *Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; 20) and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than its fellows. 21) I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22) until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgement was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. 23) Thus he said: "The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. 24) The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. 25) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and a half a time."* (NKJV)

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*AND I STOOD ON THE SAND OF THE SEA. AND I SAW A BEAST RISING UP OUT OF THE SEA, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS, AND ON HIS HORNS TEN CROWNS, AND ON HIS HEADS A BLASPHEMOUS NAME. NOW THE BEAST I SAW WAS LIKE A LEOPARD, HIS FEET WERE LIKE THE FEET OF A BEAR, AND HIS MOUTH LIKE THE MOUTH OF A LION.*  
REVELATION 13:1-2

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Why was Daniel wanting to know more about the fourth beast? Does Daniel have difficulty accepting this persecution? Do the saints go immediately from being persecuted to ruling with Christ in His kingdom? What clarity was given by the angel? Is this fourth world empire escapable? Who is targeted the most? How long does his tyranny continue?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 29-31: DANIEL 7:26-28 *GOD'S PREVAILING FINAL KINGDOM*
- JUNE 5-7: DANIEL 8:1-7 *THE POWERFUL GOAT OF THE GREEK EMPIRE*

Daniel had just been given the vision which included all the world empires, including the final world empire led by Jesus Christ with His Millennial Kingdom. Then Daniel saw that His kingdom would continue for all eternity with His people. Yet after seeing all these details, Daniel was not satisfied, and began asking questions of one nearby for further clarification. When this angel explained about the four human kingdoms, he is most excited to share about that final kingdom ruled by Christ and especially that it would be eternal, lasting "*forever, even forever and ever*" (Daniel 7:18). But Daniel still wanted more clarification, especially about the fourth beast, not only because it was such a dreadful predator, so intent on the destruction of mankind that it devoured and crushed its adversaries and even would needlessly shed blood in trampling to death all that it could, but also because its wrath was especially focused on God and His people.

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### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, HULL & COURTHOUSE & NOON – LYNCHBURG – PANERA BREAD, 3901 OLD FOREST RD.

FRIDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – CHICK-FIL-A, 6212 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

# Virginia

## The Fourth Beast Persecutes the Saints

AND OUT OF ONE OF THEM CAME A LITTLE HORN WHICH GREW EXCEEDINGLY GREAT TOWARD THE SOUTH, TOWARD THE EAST, AND TOWARD THE GLORIOUS LAND. ... AND HE CAST TRUTH DOWN TO THE GROUND. HE DID ALL THIS AND PROSPERED. DANIEL 8:9, 12B

### I. ITS POWER

DANIEL 7:19-20, 23-24

Daniel continued to ask for the truth about this fourth beast which was different from all the rest in that it was “*exceedingly dreadful*.” Though all the world empires had been predatory, this beast was so predatory that it defied human logic—it killed for the sake of killing. It is the ultimate terrorist empire—murdering indiscriminately to depopulate the planet! In fact, Daniel first emphasizes this “*residue*” that is needlessly trampled. Once again the “*eyes*” of the “*other horn*” have the plural rather than dual ending to probably again emphasize surveillance. The next emphasis is upon its “*mouth*” likely pointing to its significant media presence, but then Daniel adds a new detail: “*whose appearance was greater than his fellows*.” Thus, after conquering the previous three horns, this “*little horn*” is beginning to exceed and even dominate the remaining seven previous horns. The angel’s explanation of this fourth beast beginning in verse twenty-three introduces a group of imperfect verbs, thereby emphasizing the continuous devouring, trampling and crushing of people committed by this evil empire. Rather than justice slowing such barbaric, bloodthirsty behavior, it continues to accelerate and “*devour the whole earth*.”

THE COMING OF THE LAWLESS ONE IS ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF SATAN, WITH ALL POWER, SIGNS, AND LYING WONDERS, AND WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUS DECEPTION AMONG THOSE WHO PERISH, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. 2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-10

### II. ITS PERSECUTION

DANIEL 7:21, 25

What particularly disturbed Daniel while he was looking at this “*same horn*” was the insidious way that he was “*making war against the saints*,” and weaponizing the world government to persecute God’s people. Daniel was especially alarmed that he was “*prevailing against them*.” The angel’s interpretation showed an even darker picture: the “*pompous words*” were not just a display of arrogance in boasting of one’s accomplishments, these egotistical words are “*against the Most High*!” He is attacking and blaspheming God Himself! Thus, he “*shall persecute the saints of the Most High*.” Literally, “*the saints of the Most High he shall (continually) wear out*.” Both these “*words*” and persecution Daniel emphasizes with reverse order. A primary method of persecution is to “*change times and law*” in order to trap these saints. Worst of all, “*the saints shall be given into his hand*” for three and a half years.

YET FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. AWAKE! WHY DO YOU SLEEP, O LORD? ARISE! DO NOT CAST US OFF FOREVER. WHY DO YOU HIDE YOUR FACE, AND FORGET OUR AFFLICTION AND OUR OPPRESSION? FOR OUR SOUL IS BOWED DOWN TO THE DUST; OUR BODY CLINGS TO THE GROUND. ARISE FOR OUR HELP, AND REDEEM US FOR YOUR MERCIES’ SAKE.

PSALM 44:22-26

### III. ITS PUNISHMENT

DANIEL 7:22

This tyrannical, worldwide reign of terror would not last for a singular term of a Virginia state senator. The Eternal God, the “*Ancient of Days*” soon calls His court into Session and “*a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High*.” “*I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame*” (7:11). Such judgment that begins with fire continues for all eternity. With this judgment upon the horn and all who followed him, “*the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom*!”

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What do you do with the truth, receive and embrace it, or cast it down to the ground?
- 2) Do you speak against God and His Word or have you embraced the living Word of God—Jesus Christ?
- 3) Are you willing to stand for God’s truth, even when there are severe consequences and the tide is turned against you?